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down to a pocket size, every teacher ought to insist upon this edition for use in his botanizing classes. It is understood that the revision will include the plants of the prairies, and of the great plains up to the eastern limits of the region covered by "Coulter's Manual," *i. e.*, about the 100th meridian. —*Charles E. Bessey.*

DISTRIBUTION OF KANSAS FUNGI.—Dr. W. A. Kellerman and Mr. W. T. Swingle, well known mycological students of Manhattan, Kansas, have undertaken to make a distribution of Kansas fungi. The first fascicle consists of twenty-five species very neatly put up, with printed labels. The species represented are the following:

Aecidium aesculi E. & K. *Aecidium dicentrae* Trelease. *Ceratophorum uncinatum* (Clinton) Sacc. *Cercospora cucurbitae* E. & E. *Cercospora desmanthi* E. &. K. *Cercospora lateritia* Ell. & Halsted. *Cercospora seminalis* E. & E. *Gloeosporium apocryptum* E. & E. *Gloeosporium decipiens* E. & E. *Melasmia gleditschiae* E. & E. *Microsphaera quercina* (Schw.) Burrill. *Peronospora arthuri* Farlow. *Peronospora corydalis* DeBary. *Phragmidium speciosum* Fr. *Puccinia emaculata* Schw. *Puccinia schedonnardi* Kell. & Sw. *Puccinia* (*Leptopuccinia xanthii*) Schw. *Ramularia virgaureae* Thuem. *Roestelia pyrata* (Schw.) Thaxter. *Scolecotrichum maculicola* E. & K. *Septoria argophylla* E. & K. *Septoria speculariae* B. &. C. *Sphaerotheca phytoptophila* Kell & Sw. *Uredo quercus* Brondeau. *Ustilago zeae mays* (DC.) Winter.

ZOOLOGY.

THE NERVOUS SYSTEMS OF ANNELIDS AND VERTEBRATES.—Mr. John Beard analyzes in a recent number of *Nature* the Annelidan features found in the development of the Vertebrate nervous system, and adds some points of his own. He claims that the spinal ganglia arise not from the neural ridges but from the adjacent ectoderm, and in such a manner as to justify their comparison with the parapodial ganglia described by Kleinenberg in Lepadorhynchus. Again, the two halves of the neural plate are separated at an early stage by a median groove of ciliated epithelium, and therefore the nervous system is ontogenetically paired. This ciliated groove ultimately furnishes the epithelial lining of the neural canal, and except the fact that in the annelids the ciliated groove is not invaginated, the resemblance is thus rendered very close.

THE ORIGIN OF THE VERTEBRATE PELVIS.[1]—Professor Weidersheim presents the following hypothesis of the origin of the Vertebrate pelvis. The *inscriptiones tendineæ* of the ventral myocommata which are immediately below the posterior limbs, develop cartilage, and unite on the middle line, forming the simple median pubis of the Lepidosirenidæ and of the Urodele Batrachia. In the Ceratodontidæ this pubis has a short lateral process which is directed upwards and backwards. In Lepidosirenidæ this process is much more elongate, and is derived from a metamorphosis of the tissue of the myocomma. At its distal (superior) end it passes into fibrous connective tissue. This is the cartilaginous beginning of the ilium, which in most Batrachia and in higher Vertebrata reaches the vertebral column.

A BOY WITH A TAIL.—The *Naturaliste*[2] gives a figure (from a photograph) and a description of a boy who lives near Saigon, who has a tail about eight inches long. It originates at the usual point, but contains no vertebræ. The extremity is bent outwards, like the horizontal part of a crank. The boy has also a mammiform enlargement on each buttock. He is about twelve years of age.

ZOOLOGICAL NEWS.—ECHINODERMS.—L. Cuénot (*Arch. Zool. Exp. et Gen.*, 1888) details the anatomy of several brittle stars. While many of his statements do not well admit of abstract, it may be noticed that he finds, not hæmoglobin as has been reported, but a colored ferment, which converts peptones into albuminoids.

Ludwig (*Zeitsch. wiss. Zool.*, xlvii, 1888) describes *Ophiopteron elegans*, a brittle star which apparently has the power of swimming ; while in the same number Brock has a revision of the Ophiurids of the Indian Archipelago.

WORMS.—Völtzkow (Semper's *Arbreten* viii.), investigates *Aspidogaster conchicola*, which is familiar as a type of the trematodes in Huxley's "Invertebrata." The egg undergoes total segmentation and is enclosed by a cellular membrane, as in other Trematoda. The penis, vulva, receptaculum vitelli, etc., are ectodermic, but the internal generative organs are of mesodermic origin. The young forms pass into the stomach of the mussel, from which it works its way into the pericardium and kidneys of the host. The details of the adult structure are given.

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[1] Bericht. d. Natu-forsch. Gess. Freiburg, i. e., Bd. IV., Heft. 3.
[2] No. 48, March, 1889.

At the meeting of the Linnean Society of New South Wales, Nov. 28, 1888, Mr. J. J. Fletcher described twenty new species of Australian earthworms, twelve belonging to the genus *Cryptodrilus*.

MOLLUSCA.—The land-shell, *Subulinà octona* Chem., hitherto regarded as peculiar to the West Indies, has been found in a coffee plantation in New Caledonia. Its introduction is as yet unexplained.

ENTOMOLOGY.

AN INSECT TRAP TO BE USED WITH THE ELECTRIC LIGHT.—Some experience in collecting insects at the electric lights last summer led me to the conclusion that a simple piece of apparatus, which could take the collector's place, when he was forced to go home to steal a few hours for sleep, would be a boon to the insect-hunter. Having once gained the idea I at once endeavored to realize it, with the following result:

I obtained a three-quart tin pail, represented by *a* in the accompanying drawing, about six and one-half inches long by five and a half in diameter, and had a tinner cut out of the bottom a three-inch circle. Then taking a funnel six inches and a half in diameter at its widest part my tinsmith cut off the smaller end so as to leave an opening at this end of two and a quarter inches in diameter. This frustrum of a hollow cone, *b* in the drawing, is then soldered fast to the bottom of the pail *a*, the flaring end being outward and the smaller end projecting within the pail a half inch or more. A flat, hexagonal piece of tin, *c*, was next made to fit the funnel, *b*, and, after being carefully adjusted so as to stand vertically across the center of the mouth of the funnel, was firmly soldered in this position. Two pieces, *dd*, of steel spring, No. 8 wire, were then fastened to opposite sides of the funnel. These wires when pressed together at the top will pass into the small opening in the bottom of the globe of the U. S. Electric Light Co.'s lamp, and when released from pressure will spring back to their normal po-